AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of relaying traffic from a source to a targeted destination in a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

   providing a first and at least one second network adapter each providing access to a network having a plurality of destinations,

   providing a first routing table which defines at least a first destination associated with the first network adapter, and

   relaying said traffic from the source to the targeted destination using one of the network adapters,

   said method comprising the further step of providing at least one second routing table defining a second destination, ~~which~~ <u>wherein the</u> second destination is individually associated with said at least one second network adapter, <u>and</u> wherein the step of relaying includes a step of selecting one of the first and second routing tables<u>, and wherein the first and second routing tables define said first and second destinations as default destinations, which are used for traffic relay in any default situation</u>.

2. (canceled).

3.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the first and second routing tables comprise specific destinations pointing to another routing table, preferably by means of a next hop entry.

4.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing network adapters includes providing real network adapters and providing at least one virtual network adapter, wherein each virtual network adapter is individually associated with a third routing table.

5.   (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the third routing table includes next hop and interface entries pointing to at least one of the following: another routing table or a real network adapter, and wherein the step of relaying uses the at least one virtual network adapter and its associated third routing table.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a routing table is triggered by the source.

7.   (previously presented): A network adapter for providing access to a network from a source, said network adapter comprising an individually associated routing table for the source to access the network adapter as a default destination route.

8.   (original) The network adapter of claim 7, said network adapter being a virtual adapter, said individually associated routing table comprising next hop and interface entries pointing to at least one of the following: another routing table or a real network adapter.

9.   (currently amended) A client terminal comprising a plurality of network adapters for providing access to a network and a first routing table, said client terminal further comprising a plurality of second routing tables, wherein each network adapter is individually associated with one of the first and second routing tables, and wherein the

first and second routing tables define a first destination and a second destination as
default destinations, which are used for traffic relay in any default situation.

10.   (currently amended) A router for relaying traffic from a source to a targeted destination in
        a communications network, comprising a plurality of network adapters for providing
        access to the network and a first routing table, said router further comprising a plurality of
        second routing tables, wherein each network adapter is individually associated with one
        of the first and second routing tables, and wherein the first and second routing tables
        define a first destination and a second destination as default destinations, which are used
        for traffic relay in any default situation.

11.   (currently amended): A system for relaying traffic from a source to a target destination in
        a communications network, comprising an operating system component means for
        connecting a source application running on a machine to a communications network,
        wherein the operating system component means comprises a plurality of routing tables
        each configured to be individually associated with one of a plurality of network adapters
        network adapter of said machine, and wherein each of the plurality of routing tables
        defines a destination as a default destination, which is used for traffic relay in any default
        situation.

12.   (previously presented): The system of claim 11, wherein the operating system component
        means further comprises a plurality of virtual network adapters, each virtual network
        adapter being associated with one from a plurality of third routing tables and each
        associated third routing table comprising next hop and interface entries pointing to at
        least one of the following: another routing table or a real network adapter.

13.   (canceled).

14.   (currently amended): A computer program product embodied on a computer readable
storage medium comprising computer code for implementing and configuring a plurality
of routing tables each to be <u>individually</u> associated with one of a plurality of network
adapters accessible from a machine, wherein the computer code is operable for relaying
traffic from a source to a target destination in a communications network<u>, and wherein
each of the plurality of routing tables defines a destination as a default destination, which
is used for traffic relay in any default situation</u>.

15.   (previously presented): The system of claim 11, further embodied as a computer program
product on a computer readable medium comprising:

      computer code for connecting the source application to the communications
network; and

      computer code for configuring the plurality of routing tables to be individually
associated with the network adapter of said machine.